



CAKF Highlights

August 2010

Coalition Meeting

Alabama Child Caring Program

It was announced that the Alabama Child Caring Program will be phasing out. The final date of operation will be December 31, 2010. Barbara Hutchinson stated that the expansion of ALL Kids in October of 2009 as well as health care reform legislation has made the program reassess its role. A press release was distributed on June 11th and there was an article in the Birmingham News as well as a report on one of the local television stations.

Donations received by the Program after May 1st are being returned to donors. It was also noted that letters to donors explaining the end of the program were sent out on June 11th. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama has noted they will cover claims costs through December 31, 2010. Barbara stated that they anticipate the claims costs for children to exceed revenue; however, Blue Cross will cover the costs.

Letters to enrollees went

out on June 11th as well. ALL Kids sent out a follow-up letter to families. The ALL Kids letter explained the eligibility criteria for the program and encouraged families to apply if they believe they are eligible. Barbara said the program will be working with families whose children are currently on the Child Caring Program to make sure they secure healthcare coverage through ALL Kids or Medicaid if they are eligible. If families are ineligible for either program, they will be provided with information about various community resources they may be able to utilize. She noted they have been working with HICA to plan town hall meetings for enrollees. There are currently approximately 6000 children on the program and another 1000 or so on the waiting list who will be impacted by the change.

AVAA

There was a presentation from Chris Sellers at ALL Kids reviewing the AVAA pilot

project results thus far. The presentation looked at some of the important factors that went into choosing each site. The results from each site were also discussed. It was noted that both Blount and Jefferson Counties discontinued the project due to low utilization. It was noted that as part of the Primary Health Care Association's CHIPRA Outreach Grant, AVAA Kiosks are being placed in multiple Rural Health Centers and FQHC's through out the state.

CHIPRA and Health Reform

Several aspects of CHIPRA were discussed including Mental Health Parity which is anticipated to take effect on October 1st, 2010.

In regards to Health Reform, it was noted that the legislation allows for patients receiving hospice care to receive concurrent treatment. Efforts are being made to determine what changes need to be made. ALL Kids has traditionally had very few children on hospice.

Hot Topics

Health Information Exchange

Kim Davis-Allen of Alabama Medicaid presented information about the Health Information Exchange project that is being developed. She noted this is an effort to develop a system where health information can be exchanged between providers for all Alabama citizens. She noted that currently there is limited access to comprehensive records and that exchange between providers is episodic. This system would provide true clinic information on patients that will follow the patient as they go through system and are treated by various providers.

It was noted that monies are available at the federal level through health care reform legislation to help develop this system. Additionally, there are monies available to use as incentives for providers to use the system. There was some discussion about various aspect of the program.

Don't confuse the Health Information Exchange (HIE) with the Health Insurance Exchange (HIE).

For more information go to

medicaid.alabama.gov

Click on the Transformation link on the home page.

Insuring Partner Reports - Numbers as of June, 2010

SOBRA Medicaid

- SOBRA Cases-226,022
- SOBRA Recipients—472,565

Express Lane is being utilized throughout the state to determine the eligibility of Medicaid Renewals and New Applications. Self declaration of income is being used on children and on MLIF adults only. Pregnant women continue to be required to provide proof of income.

ALL Kids

- Enrollment—75,112

Enrollment continues to increase. The current enrollment represents 7,600 who have been enrolled within the expansion group.

ALL Kids is developing an on-line system to order materials. This should be available soon.

There has been a very positive response to the billboard campaign.

ACCF

- Enrollment—About 6000 remain on the program.

Those enrollees who are due to renew through the remainder of this calendar year will be renewed. Benefits for all recipients will end at midnight on December 31, 2010.

Announcements

The next State Coalition meeting will be held on October 28, 2010 in the ADPH Boardroom, 15th floor, RSA Tower. Time is from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. For more information contact Bonnie Bradley at 205-497-3704 or bonnie.bradley@adph.state.al.us